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## **Complementary Study of Optimizing a Wool Dyeing Process with Commercially Available Liposomes**

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## Letters to the Editor

### Complementary Study of Optimizing a Wool Dyeing Process with Commercially Available Liposomes

September 15, 1998

r Sir,

*Textile Research Journal* recently published our optimization study of the wool dyeing process with an azoic metal complex dye, using commercially available liposomes [1]. In this study, we concluded that simply adding phosphatidylcholine liposomes to the dye bath (as alternative to the dye auxiliaries currently used) is feasible at the pilot plant scale for dyeing untreated wool at lower temperatures and shorter times than needed in conventional wool dyeing with the azoic metal complex 1:2 dye Lanaset Yellow 2R.

Satisfactory levels of dye exhaustion and fixation as well as good mechanical properties and handle obtained in this new process at 80°C led us to design a complementary study spreading the range of dye concentrations (0.2 to 3.0% oww) and reducing the range of liposome concentrations (0.2 to 1.0% oww) with 80°C as final temperature.

Wool yarn samples were dyed at 80°C with the azoic metal complex 1:2 dye Lanaset Yellow 2R at three concentration levels (0.2, 1.6, and 3.0 %oww). The dye bath contained the liposome AAL-100, also at three different levels of lipid concentration (0.2, 0.6, 1.0%

oww) following the experimental  $3^2$  factorial and the conditions of our previous work [1]. We measured the experimental responses corresponding to dye exhaustion  $De$  (%), dye fixation  $Df$  (%), yarn tenacity  $Te$  (cN/tex), yarn elongation  $El$  (%), and yarn to yarn friction  $Yf$  (cN) as described in the previous work [1].

We identified the significant variables and obtained second-order polynomial models to explain the relationship between liposome concentration  $Lc$  and dye concentration  $Dc$  on bath exhaustion  $De$ , dye fixation  $Df$ , and other mechanical properties of the yarns. For the sake of brevity, only the surface responses of dye exhaustion and dye fixation are shown (Figures 1 and 2, respectively).

Dye exhaustion increased when both dye and liposome concentrations decreased. At lower dyestuff levels, however, the influence of liposome on dye exhaustion was not significant. It is important to emphasize the values of percent dye exhaustion, always higher than 90%, even at high dye concentration levels, bearing in mind that the dyeing process reached only 80°C.

Dye fixation increased with dye concentration and decreased with liposome concentration, although the influence of liposomes on dye fixation was not significant at high levels of dye concentration. Note that in all cases,

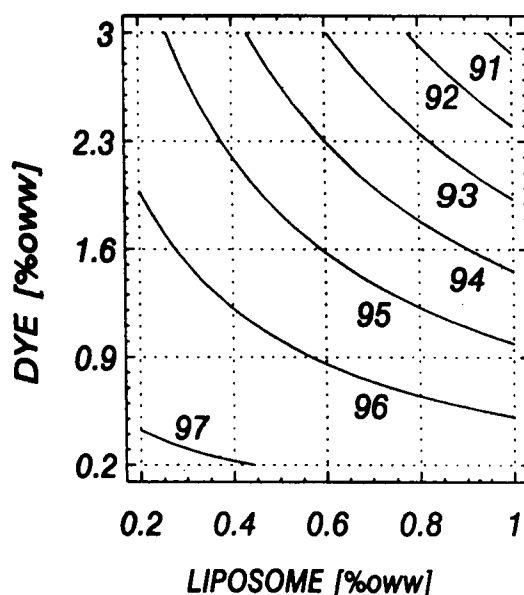


FIGURE 1. Influence of dye and liposome concentration on exhaustion of Lanaset Yellow 2R dye on untreated wool samples. Final dyeing temperature 80°C.

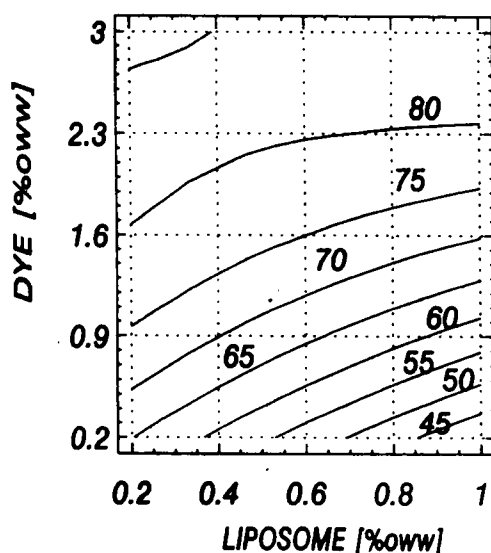


FIGURE 2. Influence of dye and liposome concentration on fixation of Lanaset Yellow 2R dye on untreated wool samples. Final dyeing temperature 80°C.

the level of fixed dye was acceptable for all liposome concentrations studied.

Neither dye nor liposome concentration revealed influence on yarn tenacity. Yarn breaking elongation only affected by dye concentration: this parameter creased when dye concentration increased. The hair was considered to be excellent by expert assessors. V yarn-to-yarn friction, we detected a significant influence only of liposome concentration.

In light of our optimization study, we can conclude that the use of commercially available PC liposome simply added to the dyebath (as an alternative to the auxiliaries used to date) is suitable for dyeing wool yarn at temperatures lower than those used in conventional industrial wool dyeing with the azo metal complex dye Lanaset Yellow 2R. Thus, wool can be dyed at 80°C with these liposomes in a wider range of dye concentrations with an optimum liposome concentration lower than 1% oww and with satisfactory levels of dye exhaustion and fixation as well as good mechanical properties and handle. It is important to emphasize the dye exhaustion percent, always higher than 90%, at this low dyeing temperature of 80°C, even at high dye concentrations.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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